

## GENERAL

9050.1

(No. 7 September, 1991)

The wildland fire problem in California is well documented in the Department's Fire Protection Plan. The population and ignition trends will result in grim prospects for human-caused fires and greater threat and damage to natural resources, life, and property. The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF) must have an effective Fire Prevention Program to meet this challenge.

The Fire Prevention Planning Process is based on ignition management and loss reduction. Ignitions will be managed in terms of preventing fires that are likely to exceed the capabilities of initial suppression and could result in large/damaging fires. Ignition Management and Loss Reduction will be identified through an analysis of risks, hazards, and values. This analysis of factors will indicate priorities where fire prevention work will be most effectively applied to minimize the threat of large/damaging fires. It is not the intent of Fire Prevention or this process to prevent all unwanted human caused fires.

Ignition scenarios deserving the most attention are those with the potential for becoming large and/or damaging fires. We must also protect the integrity of the initial attack system by reducing those ignitions or sequences of multiple ignitions that are likely to cause severe draw down on the initial attack capability. Fire suppression resources are not available in unlimited quantities. Prevention alternatives need to be formulated by considering ignition and loss reduction factors such as expected fire behavior, fire effects, elements at risk (life and property and resource values) and anticipated economic impacts, including fire management costs.

This process can be characterized as taking a more managed approach to ignitions and loss reduction, instead of adhering to a rigid policy of trying to prevent all ignitions. Managing ignitions does not literally mean dictating when and where ignitions may occur but means managing and planning the administrative response to anticipated ignitions. The objective is to gather and array information necessary for a manager to make prevention and loss reduction decisions prioritized by those ignitions with the greatest potential to become large and/or damaging fires. This is in contrast to the traditional concept of reducing the numbers of all fires, regardless of size or impact. Loss reduction is an integral part of the concept of reducing large and/or damaging fires.

By reducing hazards (fuels around structures and communities), implementing Fire Safe elements for residential developments in the State Responsibility Area (SRA), and focusing on Fire Prevention Engineering techniques for roadsides and powerlines, etc., the reduction of losses will be dramatic. CDF's initial attack system will be available and utilized at more optimum levels, effecting more immediate perimeter control in wildland/urban intermix areas by reducing the vulnerability of structures and requiring fewer initial fire control resources for structural protection.

Historically, Fire Prevention Planning has been initiated at the battalion level. The fire prevention tasks were typically laid out utilizing what Fire Control resources were available within that district. The district plans were assembled to basically formulate the Unit Prevention Plan. This Fire Prevention Analysis and Planning Procedure deals with several non-traditional concepts. The geographic boundaries to be arrived at during the planning process will not necessarily correspond with battalion boundaries, nor should they. The basic assumption is that not all battalions have the same hazards, risks, and values. The Fire Prevention workload is therefore not the same in every battalion. The analysis and planning effort is designed to address the unit in total with input from the battalions. This approach will resolve competition for resources between battalions by sharing resources and providing for those areas with a greater need or heavier workload.

## **AUTHORITY**

**9050.2**

(No. 7 September, 1991)

The California Board of Forestry, upon adopting the 1987 Fire Protection Plan, directed the Department to prepare a comprehensive wildland Fire Prevention Plan to complement the Fire Protection Plan. The CDF Ignition Management Analysis and Fire Prevention Planning Process is the result of this mandate.

## **RESPONSIBILITY**

**9050.3**

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The Preparation of a Unit Fire Prevention Plan uses the Ignition Management Analysis and the Assessment of the Fire Prevention Plan. The Fire Prevention Planning Process is the responsibility of the Unit Chief. Direct coordination and guidance should be provided by unit staff at the Division Chief level. Management direction from the Unit Chief and Unit staff is essential in establishing a solid foundation for plan development and staff participation.

Planning decisions made during plan development should involve all program staff (including fire control, fire prevention, resource management, vegetation management, CFES coordinator, EARS coordinator, etc.) as the allocation and utilization of resources will cross battalion boundaries and impact all program activities. Allocation of funds, staff time, materials and equipment must be coordinated on a Unit basis to implement an effective plan.

Within the Fire Prevention program goal and objective found in section [9002](#) and [9003](#), the Unit Fire Prevention Plan should target ignitions which are likely to become large and/or damaging fires and those ignitions which are likely to cause severe drawdown on initial attack resources. Fire Prevention components and activity programs, whether indirect, mandated, maintenance or targeted, are flexible and dynamic and can be combined and utilized in any combination in a fire prevention prescription to meet the planning goals and objectives.

At the end of the planning cycle, Units are encouraged to review activities and accomplishments and determine their completeness and effectiveness.

## **REPORTING RESPONSIBILITY**

**9050.3.1**

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The Unit and Region Fire Prevention Plans for the upcoming planning cycle must be transmitted to the Chief of Fire Prevention in Sacramento headquarters no later than March 15th of each year. Regions may establish transmittal dates for their Units to ensure that all documents are processed in a timely manner.

## **PROCESS OBJECTIVES**

**9050.4**

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The objective of the Fire Prevention Planning Process is to provide the Unit Chief and Program Manager a standardized format for analyzing applicable information, a standardized format for documenting your decision process, to provide information upon which to make operational decisions, and to provide specific operational information to the Unit, Region, and Headquarters to determine and support future budget and program decisions. This shall be done within the mission framework of the Department and the Fire Prevention goal stated in 9002, "...the prevention of the ignition and spread of unwanted human-caused fires with emphasis upon the prevention of large and damaging fires."

## **PLANNING OBJECTIVES**

**9050.5**

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The Ignition Management Analysis and Fire Prevention Plan will provide Unit Chiefs and Program Managers the ability to:

- Execute the Department's mission and Fire Prevention Goal
- Prioritize areas for actions.
- Select the most effective actions to reduce those ignitions that are most likely to result in large and/or damaging fires.
- Identify specifically what will be done, where it will be done, and the associated cost.
- Identify and quantify your entire Fire Prevention/Loss Reduction effort.

## **PROBLEM ANALYSIS**

**9050.6**

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The Ignition Management and Fire Prevention Planning Process is described in the following sections. Unit Fire Prevention Plans should be developed utilizing the following steps and requirements. Examples are provided throughout the process description to assist in development of the Unit Fire Prevention Plan. These steps must be adhered to during plan development, however; it is not the intent of this section to limit the plan to only those issues or problems described here. Innovative approaches and creative solutions should be considered and incorporated into the plan where appropriate.

## **ANALYSIS TIME FRAME**

**9050.6.1**

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The analysis will be based on calendar year fire occurrence information. The Fire Prevention Plan will be based on the twelve-month time frame of March 1 of current year through February 28 of the following year. The time from January 1 to March 1 will allow time for collection of necessary data, for annual reevaluation of each plan, for statistical analysis of fire causes, and for development of the Fire Prevention Plan for the upcoming year. Each successive plan will be implemented on March 1st ([see Sample Planning Cycle](#)).

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